



Minutes of the Regular Meeting
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, December 3, 2003
Civic Center Senior Center
7375 E. Second Street

Present: Chairperson Shelley Anderson, Vice-chair Leigh Hersey; Commissioners David Fortney, Bill Heckman; Donn Loper, Nona Oliver, and Stephen Owens

Staff Present: Debra Baird, Tom Beat, Brad Bishop, Jona Davis, Gary Meyer, Bill Murphy, Doug Nesselroad, and Judy Weiss

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Anderson called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairperson Anderson asked all to observe a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Heckman moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 19, 2003 as submitted. Commissioner Loper seconded and the motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K))

Debra Baird, Parks, Recreation & Facilities Director, updated the Commission on the status of events and activities of the Parks, Recreation, & Facilities Division. Holiday Harmony will be held on Saturday, December 6th from 3:30 to 6:30 pm on Brown Avenue between First Street and First Avenue; Holiday Lights at McCormick Stillman Railroad Park will begin on December 12, 2003; On December 8, 2003 at 5 pm in City Hall Kiva Forum the City Council will hear the presentation from the Little League regarding their fee proposal; the December 17, 2003 Commission meeting has been canceled. Bill Murphy, Service Manager, updated the Commission on the maintenance at youth sports fields and on the activities at Indian School Park. Judy Weiss, Manager, updated the Commission on the recent McDowell Mountain Ranch Park/Aquatics Center open house held on December 2, 2003.

Ms. Baird asked the Commission to consent to move agenda item 7 to directly following the staff report. The Commission agreed to move that item up on the agenda.

INFORMATION ON SolFest AND THE RELATED EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Brian Munson, Environmental Quality Board member, provided the Commission with information on the upcoming SolFest and Earth Day activities that will be held April 16, 2004 through April 18, 2004 at WestWorld. The EQAB is seeking volunteers to help with the Earth Day event that is held for Scottsdale school children on April 16, 2004 and any ideas on assistance with enlisting volunteers, sources for funding, etc. There is a need for about 300 volunteers to escort the children through the event. If there are suggestions for speakers, workshop exhibits; in-kind financial support, and any other suggestions would be please contact Larry Person, Staff Coordinator with the City of Scottsdale.

Commissioner Owens mentioned that his department at the State of Arizona has been involved in these activities.

Chairperson Anderson said, as a parent she is asked to serve often, and she suggested that the parents of children might want to assist with this event.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT AQUATIC SPONSORSHIP RENEWAL REQUESTS

Jona Davis, Senior Recreation Coordinator, and Pool Manager Bradley Bishop reviewed the 2004 Sponsorship requests received from Scottsdale Aquatic Club, Scottsdale Synchro Arizona, and Clavadistas del Sol. Team Representatives Ronnie Kiefer (SAC), Peter Zepeda (CdS), and Cindy Young (SSA) provided a summary of team financial activity and team rosters for the last reporting period. An overview of the highlights of the Sponsored Team accomplishments was presented. These requests are in-line with existing sponsorship arrangements with each club and are anchored by formal "working agreements" established with each organization. The three sponsorship requests are for use of the Cactus, Chaparral and Eldorado pools.

Commissioner Heckman said the concern has always been about how much out of pocket money it takes to participate in the programs. He asked what is an average cost to participate. Ms. Young said SSA is \$75 per month and the group does fundraising and seeks corporate sponsorships. They try to keep costs down as much as possible. The costs depend on how far a swimmer goes in competitions. Mr. Zepeda said CdS is about \$1000 to \$1500 annually. Ms. Kiefer indicated SAC was about the same but it varies by age and if the participant travels. There are subsidies available. Commissioner Heckman asked if that is that over and above the monthly fees. All groups indicated it was. Commissioner Heckman noted this is not for the faint of heart or light of wallet. The parent must support the child's enthusiasm for the sport. He noted the school system has independent programs from these and they do feed these programs.

Commissioner Heckman moved to approve the sponsorship request by Scottsdale Aquatics Club, Synchro Arizona, and Clavadistas del Sol as submitted. Commissioner Fortney seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR FEE INCREASE FOR EACH SPONSORED TEAM

Jona Davis, Senior Recreation Coordinator, and team representatives Ronnie Kiefer (SAC), Peter Zepeda (CdS), and Cindy Young (SSA) presented a request to increase fees to participants in their individual programs. Due to the implementation of the \$5 per hour aquatic fee, each team would like to increase their fees accordingly. The fee increase would go directly to cover these additional expenses. Each team president presented the specific impacts and proposed fee increases. The

method for this request is consistent with paragraph 10, Section C of the Sponsorship Agreement in effect between the City of Scottsdale and the groups.

Scottsdale Aquatics Club is requesting an annual \$20 per swimmer be implemented.

Commissioner Heckman asked if the \$5 fee is by pool usage or by team. Ms. Davis said it was an hourly fee.

Scottsdale Synchro Arizona is requesting an increase of \$9, \$11, and \$12 per month according to age group.

Commissioner Loper asked if anyone has declined to participate because of the fee increase. Ms. Young said 2 have decided not to join because of the cost. Commissioner Loper asked about the availability of scholarships. Ms. Young said that would be difficult in terms of the fee increase. The group doesn't have a lot of extra funds to pay these fees and it would require fundraising.

Commissioner Heckman said the point of the fee was they would not adversely affect the larger teams. It is something that we did not anticipate when the fees were approved. Ms. Baird that the City Council approved this on a trial basis for a year. We talked to the groups and will work with them to see what the impact is and revisit it in the summer. Commissioner Heckman thinks it makes sense to look at it on a participant basis rather than an hourly fee. It is great to have it as a pilot program.

Commissioner Fortney asked about the 2 individuals that were not participating because of these fees. Is that the real reason they are not participating. Ms. Young said the group went back to the parents and that increase was more than they wanted to pay. The group does support a user fee.

Vice-chair Hersey asked how the fees compare to other clubs in the state. Ms. Young said SSA is the lowest but they don't swim as often as other teams. Commissioner Fortney asked if the per hour fee is less than surrounding communities. Ms. Young said, with the fee increase, SSA would be more in line with another Arizona clubs. Commissioner Fortney asked what Tucson, Phoenix and Mesa pay for pool time. Ms. Davis said that Phoenix charges a standardized reservation rate (for example \$20 per hour for pool use plus lifeguard wages) as they do not sponsor competitive teams and Mesa charges approximately \$3 per hour for their sponsored teams.

Clavidistas del Sol is requesting a \$12 per month per diver increase.

Chairperson Anderson said if we re-evaluate the program in July when will the group's fees change. Ms. Weiss said if, after the fees are re-evaluated and there is a change, we would apply that immediately to all these programs.

Commissioner Fortney noted while he does not think the \$5 fee is unreasonable, why did we choose \$5 for swimmers and \$3 for other user group. Ms. Weiss said the expense is greater for a pool. Commissioner Fortney asked what is the value to the City of these 3 sponsorships. Ms. Davis said if the groups were to rent the facility there would be no lifeguards, heating, and one club may incur expenses up to \$100,000 per year. It costs about \$550 per day to operate the pool.

Vice-chair Hersey moved to approve the requested fee increases for Scottsdale Aquatics Club, Synchro Arizona and Clavidistas del Sol as presented. Commissioner Fortney seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS SPRING TRAINING FACILITY

Tom Beat, Special Projects and Contracts Manager, provided the Commission with an update on the status of the proposed training facility at the Coronado Golf Course location.

Commissioner Loper asked if the community would still be able walk by the lake and enjoy the open space. Mr. Beat said there would be passive recreation area and it would be open to the public. Commissioner Loper asked if this is leased property. Mr. Beat said the City owns 36 acres and 8 acres are privately owned. Commissioner Loper asked how much revenue the lease generates. Mr. Beat said the lease is \$1 per year. Commissioner Loper recently read a letter to the editor and they want it to remain a golf course and said it is the cheapest golf in the area. That is not true as Villa Monterey is cheaper than this course and this course is in bad shape. Villa Monterey is only 2.5 miles from Coronado. Mr. Beat said staff has also researched costs on some very affordable courses. Leagues, individual play, and use of the driving range and lessons are the concerns and those can be met by other courses. Junior golf is also accommodated at other courses. Commissioner Loper asked if the City has done all that can be done to inform the neighbors as to the alternatives. Mr. Beat said the City has. The City has looked at a variety of locations throughout the City. This would be funded by the TSA and not by tax dollars. Any sites that require land acquisitions would be too expensive. Commissioner Loper asked what the effects of the lighting would be on the neighbors. Mr. Beat said there would be no lights at this site. Commissioner Loper asked if the Indian School Park would then be open to the public. Mr. Beat said it would be the minor league location for the Giants.

Commissioner Heckman said the boundary appears to be very close to the housing. Mr. Beat said it is anticipated that the fields would be located as points as far from the homes as possible. Home plate would be approximately 500 feet from the nearest home. Commissioner Heckman said the lay looks like there could be enough room for a pitch and putt course. Commissioner Heckman asked if the landowner is receptive to selling. Mr. Beat said he has not indicated that he is willing to sell. The City is not prepared to make any offers at this time. Commissioner Heckman asked if the landowner could release their 8 acres. Mr. Beat said they could. Commissioner Heckman said it would be difficult if an agreement were not reached. Mr. Beat said all the options will be explored by the consultant. Commissioner Heckman asked if this were approved we would not renew the lease, there is no money to bring the site up to standard. Mr. Beat said at meetings the operator is saying he will upgrade the facility without changing rates. That does not seem viable, as improvements costs would have to be recovered. The City could not write a lease without addressing the upgrades to the course. Commissioner Heckman asked how many fields are tied up during spring training. Mr. Beat said all 4 fields at Indian School are used during Spring Training. This site will be major league facility and the minors will use Indian School Park. Commissioner Heckman asked if, when done, would this facility be available for public use. Mr. Beat said it is for use by the Giants only. Commissioner Heckman asked about crowds. Mr. Beat said this is a controlled facility with restricted parking. Large crowds are not expected to be at this site. Commissioner Heckman thinks that should be made clear.

Commissioner Oliver asked how would access be accomplished. Will the section that is privately owned be leased to the City. Mr. Beat said there would be negotiations after appraisals are completed. Condemnation is always a possibility. The consultant will see if the site can be worked around the private property. Commissioner Oliver asked if the Giants are contributing to this. Mr. Beat said the City is in the Spring Training business but we are not competitive with other communities. The impact of what the Giants bring to the City is great and the Giants will not be contributing to the site financially. Commissioner Oliver asked how close it is to the condominiums.

Mr. Beat said the intent is not to build close to the residences. The facilities will be as far away as they can possibly be and it could be several hundred feet. Commissioner Oliver likes the idea of the pitch and putt. Commissioner Oliver asked if the neighbors would be notified. Mr. Beat said they would be notified.

Commissioner Fortney believes the trade off is worth it because the fields at Indian School will be made available to the community. He asked if they would be available like fields 3 and 4 are now. Mr. Murphy said they would.

Chairperson Anderson asked if property values issues have been brought up. Mr. Beat said somewhat and there are those who have indicated they don't care that the open space is fine, others say it is a public health issue and want a well-maintained golf course. The appraiser looks at it as open space either way. Chairperson Anderson asked if the fence would be see-through. Mr. Beat said that was correct and it would be of high quality.

Commissioner Heckman said Monday night is an important Council meeting to attend. The proposal is to do the feasibility study to see what will work. Mr. Beat said that was correct and any information will be brought back to the Commission.

REVIEW HISTORY OF THE PHOENIX OPEN AND DISCUSS THE CHANGE TO THE FBR OPEN

Tom Beat, Special Projects and Contracts Manager, discussed the history of the Phoenix Open in Scottsdale and will explain the change to the FBR (Freidman Billings and Ramsey) Open for 2004. This is a name change that will bring revenue into the valley for charitable distribution by the Thunderbirds.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC (A.R.S. § 38-431.02)

Chairperson Anderson called for any items from the floor. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Heckman moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice-chair Hersey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

With no further action to come before the Commission, Chairperson Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary, Ruth Johnson.

Meets established criteria.



Debra Baird, Director
Parks, Recreation and Facilities